MINUTES FOR NAPRA GENERAL MEETING NOV 10th

I. Called to order by Ken, N7IPB, President. Introductions of all in attendance were made.

II. Treasurer, Peter, WA7FUS, reported a balance of about $1000.

III. The 440 repeater is assembled and in the hands of Bob, KD7NM, to be tuned up.

IV. Richard, N7HHU, from Ellensburg reported that his 440 repeater on the ELN Node is up and running.

V. Scott, N7FSP, Technical VP, reported that there is definitely a problem with the SEA Node. It has been seen to repeatedly send very, very long packets, which are usually not acknowledged. Remote resets of the TNC have not been able to correct the problem. There will be a trip to the hill soon to replace or repair the TNC.

VI. Don, WB7QEU, from Olympia and representing the OLY Node asked questions about the 440 repeater and what it ment to OLY.

Ken, N7IPB, and Dennis, KB7DZ, described the concept, which will replace the 220 backbone bertween Nodes in the Seattle area (SEA, SEAW, PTN, EVT, ALKI, and TAC). This "Hub" will have a tie to a Node or Switch on 220 which will provide connect paths to SPR to the north and OLY to the south. NAPRA will be providing the 440 transeivers. The Nodes will have to provide the antenna, etc., and TNC to tie into their present node. Ken asked that further discussion be postponed until the board meeting, or after the present meeting was over. The Board plans to formalize the overall plan and bring it back the details to the general membership and the packet community.

VII. U.S. Sprint - There are negotiations underway that may make a fiber optic connection from Seattle to Boseman, MT available for packet for a while. Scott, N7FSP, has had contact with the Packet Radio of Montana (PROM) people and they are interested. He asked for and got names to contact to work out more details.

VIII. Ragchew - Net controls needed - Dennis, KB7DZ, requested help from members willing to help. He is looking for people to regularly run net on the 3rd Thursday, for one, and other days, as will as names who could fill-in when needed. Please contact him, KB7DZ @ KD7NM, if you can help.

IX. Short Break while program is set up.

X. Program - Ken, WA2JQW - Satellites and Packet Radio

Ken presented definitions of some of the special terminology used with satellite communications, a history of what has been going on with satellites, a brief description of the mechanics of satellite orbits, a description of what satellites are up, and a description of what equipment is needed in order to participate.

Current satellites include OSCAR-14 which has a BBS/Digipeater, the 5 Micro-SATs: PACSAT with a special BBS (requires a program called BTERM for the ground station), DOVE (Digital Orbiting Voice Encoder) which is just a broadcast satellite on 145.825 MHz, WEBERSAT which has a color CCD camera and sends pictures

via packet which can be decoded by a program called Weberware (available from AMSAT or TAPR), LUSAT which will have a BBS (not yet operational) but covers mainly the southern hemisphere, JAS-1B which has a store and forward packet BBS, and BADR-1 sent up by Pakistan and operating on the same frequency as DOVE!

DOVE requires no special equipment, except special software if you wish to decode the telemetry data packets. The voice will be able to be heard on an FM HT. The others require 2M FM transmitter, 440 SSB receiver, BPSK Modem some at 1200 baud and others at 9600 baud and beam antennas with provision for tracking heading and azmith. Programs are available for calculating position and actual frequencies (due to dopler shift) you will need.

The future holds possibility of Geostationary satellites which will not require all the fancy calculations. More info is available from AMSAT, TAPR, and in QST. Ken advised anyone who gets into satellite work to join AMSAT and help support that part of the effort too.

XI. Meeting adjourned, except Board Members who decided to move the Board meeting up to next Tuesday Nov 13th to avoid Thanksgiving Eve. Ken, N7IPB, will verify that the Omni is available.